

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY OES/SCI/SEP:JGSAMPAS:MT

APPROVED BY OES/SCI/SEP:OHGANLEY

EUR/EE:NANDREWS

EUR/EE:HGILMORE

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R 222357Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015652

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OSCI, YO

SUBJECT: SFCP - US/YUGOSLAV S&T PROGRAM: 133/KRANJC

1. THROUGHOUT PERIOD OF DIFFICULIES ON NSF/JOINT BOARD PROJECT QUALITY OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY (QEE), DEPARTMENT HAS TRIED TO AVOID ACTIONS WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT US-YUGOSLAV S&T PROGRAM AND US-YUYOSLAV POLITICAL RELATIONS.
2. US SIDE AGREED TO CANCELLATION OF PROJECT AT NOVEMBER 1974 MEETING OF JOINT BOARD TO REMOVE IRRITANT FROM US-YUGOSLAV S&T PROGRAM.
3. ALLEGATIONS OF HARASSMENT OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR BY YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES ARE NOW BEING MADE, WHICH, IF CORRECT, WOULD HAVE SERIOUS NEGATIVE EFFECT ON S&T PROGRAM.
4. DEPARTMENT IS IN RECEIPT OF LETTER DATED JANUARY 4, 1975, FROM KRANJC, PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OF QEE, MAILED
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FROM GERMANY, REQUESTING JOINT BOARD CHAIRMAN (GANLEY) TO

"TELL OPEN (SIC) AND FRANKLY WHAT ARE THE INTRACTABLE PROBLEMS WHICH BESET THE PROJECT AND IF IT IS NECESSARY TO LAUNCH A FULL INVESTIGATION. I AM CONCERNED THAT OTHERWISE MYSELF OR EVEN NSF WILL TAKE THE BLAME,

REGARDLESS OF THE OFFICIAL MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF THE CANCELLATION OF THE PROJECT." (WE UNDERSTAND THAT COPIES OF THIS LETTER HAVE BEEN SENT TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE-SCIATT MILLS; NSF - DR. ZALAR; AND BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION - MR. GENS.)

5. ADDITIONALLY, NSF OFFICER REPORTS THAT IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH KRANJC ON JANUARY 8, 1975 WHEN HE CALLED KRANJC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CANCELLATION OF EQUIPMENT ORDERS FOR QEE, KRANJC INFORMED HIM:

"THE GRANTEE (FACULTY OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING) IS TRYING TO MAKE DR. KRANJC SCAPEGOAT FOR THE FAILURE OF QEE PROJECT. HIS SITUATION IS VERY DIFFICULT:

--THE FACULTY DOES NOT COMMUNICATE WITH HIM ANY LONGER.

--HE WAS INSTRUCTED NOT TO COMMUNICATE WITH NSF.

--ALTHOUGH HIS ACTIVITIES FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT THROUGH JUNE 30, 1973 HAS ALREADY BEEN AUDITED, A NEW AUDIT WAS ORDERED FOR THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE GRANT PERIOD.

--HE WAS "FORCED" TO SURRENDER TO THE FACULTY ENTIRE DOCUMENTATION ON 133.

--HE WAS INFORMED THAT A DISCIPLINARY ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST HIM, BECAUSE HE DID NOT COMPLY WITH DECISIONS OF THE "TEMPORARY COUNCIL."

--HIS PASSPORT WAS TAKEN AWAY.

--HIS TENURE EXPIRED IN JUNE 1975 AND HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO BE REELECTED TO PROFESSORSHIP.
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--HE AND THREE OTHER COLLABORATORS HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY SALARY SINCE APRIL 1974 AND HE CANNOT PAY SOME OUTSTANDING BILLS FOR ACTIVITIES BEFORE NOVEMBER 21, 1974, BECAUSE ALL FUNDS REMAIN BLOCKED.

--SINCE HE CANNOT SEND MAIL FROM YUGOSLAVIA, HE MAILED NSF A 16-PAGE LETTER, DESCRIBING THE SITUATION,

FROM GERMANY. (NOT YET RECEIVED.)"

6. NSF HAS ASKED DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE ON HOW TO PURSUE MATTER FURTHER. DEPARTMENT'S INITIAL THOUGHTS ARE THAT NSF (DR. BODO BARTOCHA, HEAD, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS), SHOULD CALL IN YUGOSLAV SCIENTIFIC COUNSELOR RAJACIC AND STATE THAT NSF HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT KRANJC IS BEING HARASSED FOR HIS PREVIOUS ACTIONS; THAT NSF REGARDS HIM AS AN OBJECTIVE SCIENTIST WHO, AS PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OF QEE, WAS MERELY ATTEMPTING TO CARRY OUT PROJECT; THAT HARASSMENT AND SIMILAR ANNOYING ACTIONS BY YUGOSLAV UNIVERSITY AND OTHER AUTHORITIES COULD HAVE SERIOUS NEGATIVE EFFECT ON NSF/YUGOSLAV S&T PROGRAM AND POSSIBLY ENTIRE US/YUGOSLAV S&T PROGRAM. ON LATTER POINT RAJACIC WOULD BE REMINDED AGAIN THAT FUTURE (POST PL-480) FUNDING OF US-YUGOSLAV SCIENCE PROGRAM WOULD ALMOST INEVITABLY HAVE TO COME FROM NSF. HARASSMENT OF NSF PROJECT'S PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR WOULD CALL INTO QUESTION UTILITY OF NSF'S CONTINUING ITS COOPERATION WITH YUGOSLAVS.

7. DEPARTMENT IS THINKING IN TERMS OF NSF APPROACH BECAUSE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE WISE TO TAKE UP MATTER AT THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL AT THIS TIME. NSF APPROACH APPEARS BEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS AT THIS INITIAL STAGE OF PROCEEDING WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING OTHER US-YUGOSLAV INTERESTS.

8. HOWEVER, BEFORE PROCEEDING, DEPARTMENT WOULD WELCOME VIEWS OF EMBASSY. AN EARLY REPLY WOULD BE APPRECIATED. KISSINGER

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